



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Grand Canyon National Park
P.O. Box 129
Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023-0129

July 23, 2001

Dear Interested Party:

Reference: Relocation of Power Substation at Grand Canyon Village

Subject: Comments on the proposed power substation relocation at Grand Canyon Village (General Scoping)

The National Park Service is proposing to relocate a power substation at Grand Canyon Village from an area intended for public use to an area identified as a transportation/utility corridor. This project is being proposed in order to remove utility uses from public areas, which would provide a safer and more enjoyable visitor experience in the park. The project is consistent with the 1995 Grand Canyon National Park General Management Plan. An Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared to facilitate the decision-making process for this project.

This project would, in sequence, a) construct a new power substation south of Grand Canyon Village, b) route new distribution lines from the new substation to the existing distribution system using underground lines, and c) remove both the existing high voltage transmission lines feeding the existing substation and the existing substation itself. The existing overhead distribution lines adjacent to the existing substation would remain for the purposes of this project. The attached map identifies the existing location of the substation and shows the proposed new location of the substation and distribution lines.

The substation would be contained within a fenced enclosure no larger than 225 feet by 225 feet, which would accommodate the fixed equipment and allow vehicles to maneuver safely around it. Its location is proposed to be approximately ¼ mile southeast of Pinyon Park where the high voltage power line makes a 75 degree turn to the west as it approaches Grand Canyon Village. Access would be from Center Road, across from the Clinic Road turn-off. A second site further south along the high voltage transmission line was considered but rejected because access for large trucks would not be possible without substantially altering existing two-track roads.

The underground power distribution lines would be routed east and west from the substation. The lines going east would follow the existing sewer line and two-track road to Center Road, and then follow Clinic Road and Havasupai Road to an existing switching cabinet. Lines routed to the west would follow the existing high voltage transmission line and two-track road to a point south of Pinyon Park, near where the high voltage line to Indian Garden branches off, where it would connect to the existing infrastructure. The routes followed by the distribution lines between Center Road and Maswik Lodge are proposed to be followed by a new road (identified in the GMP) and a light rail (or other transit) line.

Arizona Public Service (APS) would perform all work and remove all demolished materials from the park.

The purpose of this scoping letter is to describe the initial proposed action for the project and to solicit comments from those who may have issues or concerns regarding the proposal. We would like your comments before we proceed further with the environmental analysis. If you have issues or concerns please send your comments by August 27, 2001 to:

Superintendent
Grand Canyon National Park
ATTN: Sara White, Chief Compliance Officer
P.O. Box 129
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

Please be aware that names and addresses of respondents may be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety. Anonymous comments may be included in the public record. However, the National Park Service is not legally required to consider or respond to anonymous comments.

If you have any questions regarding the projects, please call Brad Traver at 520-774-1239.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Alston
Superintendent

Enclosure

